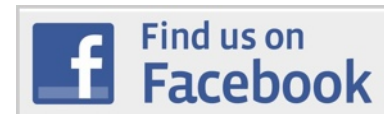


The SOLAR Ray



facebook.com/SOLARoutdoors

A Monthly Publication of the School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation

August 2013

Visit us at www.solaroutdoors.org

Rockin' & Ropin'

Erin Camargo, SOLAR Secretary and daredevil

When I wrote a story for the Ray about the SOLAR ice climbing outing last winter, I ended with a half-serious comment about trying rock climbing next. The universe called my bluff when the Top Roping and Anchors class appeared on the SOLAR Meetup calendar this spring. I dillied and dallied but eventually took up the gauntlet and committed myself to another climbing adventure.

I am so glad I did. Mike Schick and his dedicated crew of instructors have resurrected this class from SOLAR history with aplomb - it turned out



Be nice to your climbing gear

Continued on next page

Your Answers, Please

...to spread the word about SOLAR!

Bill Morse, SOLAR Public Relations chair

What does SOLAR mean to me? Think about the friendships you've made, the fun you've had, the challenges you've faced, the places you've been. And anything else that comes to mind.

How is SOLAR different from other groups? You can go to Meetup and find other outdoor

Continued on p.3

"Like algebra with trees"

Karen Haroutunian

I have a confession to make. I've taken Basic Backpacking, Basic Land Navigation, Search and Rescue and Adventure Racing, and I *still* don't get orienteering and navigation. I keep trying and I still don't get it. It's like algebra—with trees.

Continued on p.3

Also in this issue:

A Peche of a Paddle	3
Upcoming Events & Classes	4 - 6
Calendar	9
Programs	10
Got the Write Stuff?	10



WELCOME TO THESE NEW SOLAR MEMBERS!

Josie Auger • Rhonda Green • James Hendrickson

UPGRADED TO LIFETIME:

Put your name here next month!

Rockin' & Ropin'

continued from previous page

to be one of the most exciting and rewarding things I have done with the club. Top roping, in which the climber is secured to the belayer through an anchor system, is as safe a form of rock climbing as there is, but there is still a bewildering array of knots to learn, safety techniques to master, and nerves to conquer. We were led through it all with competence and enthusiasm.

The class began in Chris Myers' basement on May 22 with seven students and the figure eight knot. We discussed equipment (harnesses, rope, carabiners, shoes, helmets, etc.) and tried on harnesses for size. The following week covered more knots, anchor systems, and evil-looking formulas for calculating the force to which climbing equipment can (or can't) be subjected. In June, we spent an entire Saturday practicing the basic skills in preparation for the outdoor practical at Rattlesnake Point in Canada, and climbed together at Planet Rock in Pontiac. It took a few climbs at the gym, but eventually I began to worry less about falling and to focus on the grips and the movements involved in scaling a wall. What is it with humans wanting to do things that don't come naturally to us? Climbing isn't as extreme as flight, but it certainly lifts us off our feet and out of the ordinary.

The final weekend practical brought it all together on the limestone cliffs of the Niagara escarpment. Most of the students and instructors arrived on Friday night so that we could set anchors on the top of the cliffs early Saturday morning. With our novice skills, it took two or three hours to satisfy Super SIRENE Girl (Judy Petrella in an orange mask and cape) that our anchors were safe and to toss the ropes over



Erin on the wall

the cliff. After lunch in a rain shower, the climbing began, with bruises, scrapes, and progressively louder cursing as they day went on. We finished Saturday with a potluck at the campsite, and climbed again briefly on Sunday morning before the heat got the better of us.

I wasn't expecting to take to climbing as much as I did. I signed up for the class expecting a new experience, something to challenge me and keep me busy for a few weekends in the spring. I discovered an activity that captivated me, from the sharp scent of the rocks under my hands to the reassuring tautness of the rope on the harness. Climbing is a test of trust,



Don't look down!



physical strength, and willpower that leaves you bruised and battered but with the blood singing in your veins. I'm still ambivalent about ice climbing, but I can't wait to try rock climbing again.

See more pictures on p. 5!

The intrepid crew and instructors

Your Answers, Please *continued from page 1*

groups. Many groups are very good, but maybe there is something that makes SOLAR unique. Let's accentuate the positive. To me, SOLAR is different from other groups since it's been around a long time, since the mid-70s. Not many other groups include members who have scaled mountains in North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

You're probably wondering why I asked these questions. We're considering what to say in our promotional literature, and your input will be helpful. We'd like to include some of your responses. Don't worry, we won't include your name. Please send your replies to me at solarpublicrelations@solaroutdoors.org

And some more queries:

Do you enjoy telling others about SOLAR? Do you want more people to know about us? Do you love to express your creativity? Did you answer "yes" to any of these questions? If so, I can use your help with various aspects of public relations. I would like a few (or more) people to assist when they can and to offer ideas. You can be part of our public relations committee. If the word "committee" conjures up visions of three-hour meetings every week, don't worry. It won't be like that! We may have an occasional brainstorming session but most of our communication will probably be via e-mail. Whether you've been in SOLAR a long time or are just starting, your input will be appreciated. Please use the same address as above if you can help, or if you have questions for me.

Thank you!



"Like Algebra with trees"

continued from page 1

When I saw Jeff McWilliam's one-day Introduction to Orienteering class I thought I should try again. I figured that since a compass is one of the 10 essentials, I should know how to use it and besides, it would be a day outside with SOLARites and that's always a good thing.

So - on a sunny, windy Saturday in May, I, along with fifteen other students, arrived at Huron Meadows for the class. Jeff McWilliams, the lead instructor, got things started by passing out several informative handouts and giving us an overview of orienteering. He discussed the types of Orienteering meets, the different types of check points (CPs) and the newest equipment for the sport.

One by one, the instructors (Jeff, Jen McWilliams, Sue Segal, Krisanne Schmidt, Jim Klosinski and Ati Tislerics) taught us about topo map features and symbols, control descriptions and cards, orienteering lingo, map scale, compass features and what to expect at and bring to an orienteering meet. It all sounded familiar, but would it stick this time? I was having algebra class flashbacks and they weren't pretty.

After taking some practice compass bearings, we split into groups. I was teamed with Beth Flannery, Carol Rogers and instructor Ati Tislerics. We prepared our strategy to find the CPs that make up the permanent Southern Michigan Orienteering Club (SMOC) course at Huron Meadows and off we went.

It didn't take long for us to find the first two CPs. Since we didn't have a punch card to prove we found them, someone (either Carol or Beth) thought we should take pictures, which we did using Carol's phone. (This was so much more fun than solving for X and Y.)

Our third CP was not as easy to find because in order to reach it, we had to bushwhack through some heavy vegetation and low hanging branches. We discussed our strategy, took a bearing, and began our search. We stopped every few feet to make sure we were on course

Continued on next page

A **Peche** of a Paddle

Mike Hobig

July 3rd was a bright and glorious day in the Detroit area in the heart of the Great Lakes watershed. We headed to Canada, crossing by bridge or tunnel to avoid the possibly awkward border crossing by water. We unloaded kayaks and paddled over to Peche Island at the mouth of the Detroit River. We got our little group togethereventually. The leader, Mike Hobig, had been “shockingly remiss” (his words) in specifying the exact meeting and launch site. Bruce and Jim launched from a large public beach; Mike and Brenda from a smaller site. All finally met on a sandy beach on the island, enjoying the calm serenity of this small oasis hedged in by cities and by one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.



Mike gets a “time out” for his negligence!



Continued on next page



“Like Algebra with trees”

continued from page 1

and to review the map. We knew we were in the right area because what we saw on the map matched the terrain around us.

What we weren't sure of was whether we passed the CP or had yet to come upon it. We did a quick time check and briefly discussed whether we should continue looking for this one or move on to the next. We decided to stick with this one because it was such a challenge and we knew we had to be close. Ati posed some thought-provoking questions and gave us some pointers from which we concluded we had gone too far.

It was time to regroup. Carol came up with Plan B and Beth got us headed in the right direction. We made the necessary adjustments and kept going. Shortly thereafter...Eureka! There it was. This find was sweet. What made it even sweeter was when Ati told us this was one of the more difficult CPs on the course. Hah! Take *that*, X and Y!

We picked up another CP before heading back to the start/finish in plenty of time to avoid a DQ (disqualification, not Dairy Queen). Some of the teams had already returned when we arrived and the others weren't far behind us. Most of the teams found more CPs than we did, but we were pretty pleased with our results. Everyone shared their stories, compared notes and left smiling. It was a good day.

Oh, and I think this time it stuck. Who knows, maybe I'll try algebra again.



A **Pече** of a Paddle *continued from previous page*

Peche Island was once the personal property and playground of Hiram Walker, of whiskey fame. His party house is long gone with only a few remnants remaining: some foundations and a gracefully aging bridge. Modern paths overlay this history as do the waterways around and through the island. The history enhanced one heck of a day on the water. Circling the island, we took in trees, birds, fish and freighters, a water snake, and did a bit of beachcombing, as well. We also explored more trails than one would expect on such a small island. The water was always just steps away for a cool soak.

Along the boardwalk



We capped off the day with dinner and drinks on the mainland. We made it back across the border a bit tired from the sun and fun on a neat little natural getaway close to home.



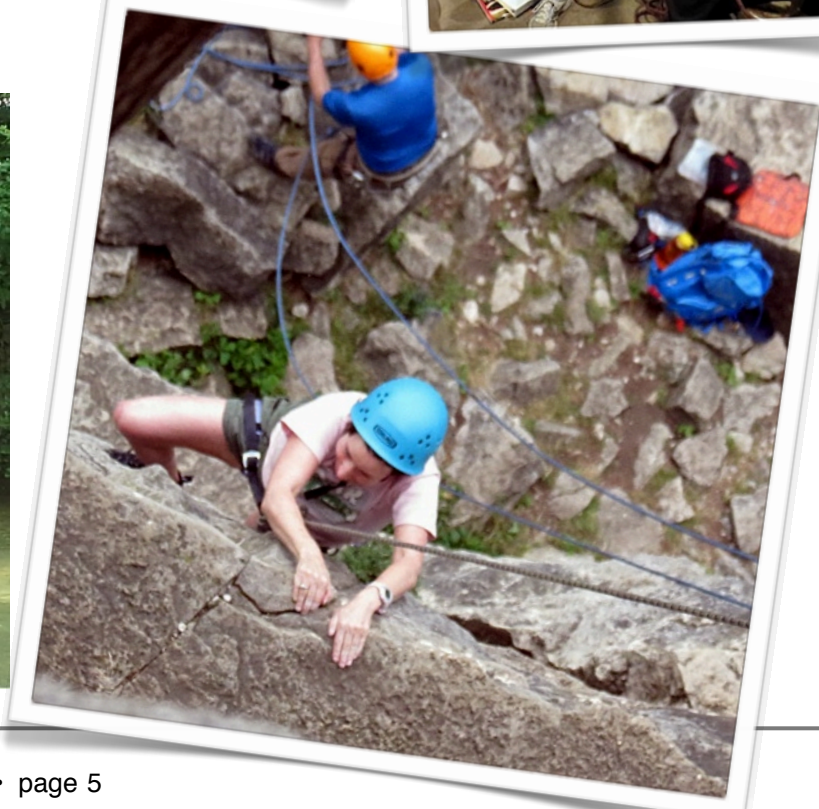
Rockin' & Ropin' Pics!



Who is that masked woman?



Learning the ropes



Activities and Classes

Extended Huron River Paddle Trip: Island Lake to Huron Meadows Metropark • Sat. Aug. 10, 10 am

Start below the dam at Kent Lake in Island Lake State Recreation Area (A valid State Recreation Passport is required to enter the park). Est. paddling time: 5 - 6 hours. Be prepared for low water. Cost: \$40 per canoe, \$35 per kayak, or \$10 to shuttle your own boat. Includes transportation back to Island Lake from Huron Meadows Metropark. Meet at Heavner Canoe Rental at Kent Lake Beach.

Optional 3 hour trip: arrange with Heavner's for takeout and pickup at the Placeway Road Bridge .

Dress for the weather. Bring sunscreen, bug spray, sun glasses, hat, and maybe a nice soft cushion. Bring a lunch, snack, and drink. We will be eating somewhere on the river.

This is a family friendly trip. Kids under 12 are half price; Kids under six are free.

You must reserve a spot by calling Heavner Canoe Rental at (248) 685-2379 and tell them you want to sign up for the Jeff Enterkin/ SOLAR Island Lake to Huron Meadows paddle and the date. Their address is 2775 Garden Road - Milford, Michigan 48381. Web site: <http://www.heavnercanoe.com>. After you have reserved your spot please let me know that you are going so I can contact you if we need to change/cancel the paddle.

Any questions: call Jeff Enterkin at 248-224-4384 or e-mail jente69690@aol.com.



Standup Paddle Board Lesson

Saturday, August 24 at 9:30 am

Organized by Karen Stauble: kmikaja@yahoo.com

Mary Radtke is back to give a stand up paddle board lesson, so if you missed this last year, here's your chance. Mary Radtke has been doing standup paddling for six years and instructing for four years.

We will be meeting at Kent Lake in the Island Lake Recreation Area for a two hour beginner to advanced lesson. The cost is \$30 per person if we meet our goal of 10 people. This includes everything needed for the class.

Sign up on Meetup.com or at the August membership meeting.

You will need a recreation passport to enter the park.

Island Lake Recreation Area
12950 E. Grand River Ave.
Brighton, MI 48116

Activities and Classes

Moonlight Paddles 2013

Organized by Margaret Martin, mpluscat@yahoo.com

August 24 - 7:15 pm • September 21 - 6:30 pm

October 19 - 5:45 pm

Cost: \$25/person, includes kayak or canoe rental plus post-paddle bonfire. \$5 bonfire only.

This popular event is great for the experienced paddler as well as the novice. Paddle a canoe or a kayak into the setting sun. Walk into Milford for dinner or dessert before paddling back in the moonlight. When you return to the canoe rental, a bonfire will be awaiting you. No partner necessary, all skill levels welcome. Dress for the weather, including headlamps and water bottles.

Boats launch from Heavner Canoe Rentals, 2775 Garden Rd, Milford, MI. Arrive 15-30 minutes early to complete paperwork, pay, and pick out your paddle.

Pre-register with Heavner Canoe Rental at 248 685-2379.

Pre-Moonlight Paddle Clinics

Offered before the Moonlight Paddles at Heavner's, ONLY for those signed up for the paddle. Those who sign up on Meetup will also need to sign up with Heavner canoe rental at (248) 685-2379 and Matt Dalton at (248) 760-3792.

Class will go over the basics of paddling, including forward paddle, back paddle, pry, draw, rudder and J stroke. Getting in and out of the kayak and canoe safety will be covered. Gear will also be discussed.

Kayak Class: 5:00-7:00 pm • Matt Dalton (mdalton@ameritech.net)

Canoe Class: 3:00-6:00 pm • Margaret Martin (mpluscat@yahoo.com)

Pre-Paddle Hikes at Proud Lake State Recreation Area

Led by Jeff Enterkin, jente06969@aol.com

Hikers meet at Heavner Canoe Rentals 2.5 hours before the Moonlight Paddle start time. We'll hike the trails at Proud Lake and be back in time join the Moonlight Paddle. Non-paddlers welcome! August hike leader needed.

Activities and Classes

Beginning Backpacking Class

August 22-September 26; Pictured Rocks Practical, October 4- 6

Class Fee: \$110 includes textbook, class handbook, camping fees for both practicals, and dinner at Practical 1. Sign up on Meetup or by the August 6 general meeting.

One of the most popular classes offered by SOLAR members to SOLAR members, the Beginning Backpacking Class teaches trip planning, equipment, food, and other topics to get you ready for the backcountry. The class gives you hands-on experience, fun times, and new friends.

This class is for people who a) have never backpacked and have always wanted to try it; b) need the class as a prerequisite for other classes; c) are new to the club and want to make friends and meet people; or d) want a refresher or just need an excuse to backpack.

Class sessions: Thursdays, August 22, September 5, 12, 19, and 26, Royal Oak Senior Community Center, 6:00-9:00 pm.

Field Day: Saturday, September 7, Maybury State Park, Northville.

Practical 1: Saturday-Sunday, September 21-22, Brighton Recreation Area.

Practical 2: Friday-Sunday, October 4-6, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

You will need to participate on a weekly basis and should plan on attending all practicals to get the most out of the class. To attend the final practical at Pictured Rocks, you must attend the Field Day and Practical 1.

Prerequisites: Current paid member of SOLAR; Interested in new experiences, new friends, or both!

Except for boots and clothing, you don't need your own gear – you will be able to sign out SOLAR gear for the class.

Lead Instructors: Carol McCririe, cmccririe@sbcglobal.net; Leslie Cordova, lesliegene@aol.com; and Glenn Schultz, gunghoglenn@yahoo.com.

SOLAR AUGUST 2013 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

Click to get the details on Meetup.com!

Click names to send email!

SOLAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

8/6	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Discovering Domenica		Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
9/24	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
9/3	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Introduction to Fall and Winter Classes		Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
9/24	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
10/1	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Fall and Winter Classes		Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
10/29	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm			SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
11/5	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm			SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program TBD			
11/26	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm			SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

8/15	Thur	September SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
9/12	Thur	EARLY DEADLINE for Oct. due to Editor's trip		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
10/17	Thur	November SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

ACTIVITIES

8/8-11	Multi	Manitou Island Backpacking Trip	North Manitou Island, MI	Ann Riley-Gawura	janagawura@aol.com
8/10	Sat	Extended Huron River paddle	Island Lake State Recreation Area	Jeff Enterkin	jente69690@aol.com
9/21-28	Multi	Adirondack Fall Hiking Trip	Lake Placid, NY	Janet Schester	j40makayla@gmail.com

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE FALL AND WINTER ACTIVITIES!

CLASSES

8/24	Sat	Stand Up Paddleboard Lesson	Island Lake State Recreation Area	Karen Stauble	kmikaja@yahoo.com
8/24	Sat	Kayaking Class	Heavner Canoe Rental, Milford, MI	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
8/24	Sat	Canoeing Class	Heavner Canoe Rental, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
8/22, 9/5, 9/7, 9/12, 9/19, 9/20-22, 9/26, 10/4-6	Thur, Sat, Wknd	Basic Backpacking	Royal Oak Community Center, Maybury State Park, Brighton State Rec Area, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore	Carol McCrie, Glenn Schultz, Leslie Cordova	cmccrie@sbcglobal.net

SOLAR HAS A NO-REFUND POLICY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND AN ACTIVITY, YOU MAY "SELL YOUR SPOT" TO ANOTHER CLUB MEMBER

Upcoming SOLAR Programs

SOLAR Programs follow the business meeting at monthly meetings at Colony Hall. If you have an idea for a program, share it with our Programs Chair, at solarprograms@solaroutdoors.org.

August 6: Discovering Dominica, the "Nature Isle of the Caribbean": This is no ordinary Caribbean island. Dominica's volcanic mountains, magnificent waterfalls, lush rainforest and 300 miles of hiking trails are a nature lover's dream. It's just as amazing below the water, with volcanic vents and plunging sea walls, colorful reefs and soft corals, sea turtles, dolphins and whales. Ati and Jennifer Tislerics share stories, photos and videos from 11 days in Dominica.

September 3: To Be Announced

Reminder:

SOLAR's membership meetings now start
at 7:00pm



SOLAR

33228 W. 12 Mile Road
Box 220
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Visit our website at www.solaroutdoors.org

Got the write stuff for the Ray?

Of course you do! SOLAR members are not only adventurous, they're eloquent and literate, with stories to tell and opinions to share. So share yours with us! Tell us about that great outing, your favorite camp recipes, the gear and gadgets you love (or loathe). Just follow these simple guidelines to see your name and prose in print and pixels:

Make it personal. Anecdotes and the thoughts and experiences you and others had are so much more interesting than a day-by-day recounting of a trip.

Keep it concise. Two pages or less are ideal. Tell a story, not an epic! The Editor is now limiting the print edition of the Ray to twelve pages. About half of those are for upcoming events and the calendar. And onscreen, a "wall of text" effect can be stultifying to the reader.

But you're more visual? One word: PICTURES! It is a truism that a picture is worth a bunch of words. Include a brief description (creative or merely functional) of each picture. At the very least, give them descriptive file names instead of 4756644.jpg! The Editor is pretty good at captioning. Photo features are great, and fun for the Editor to put together!

Whether your photos are part of an article or not, be sure to send them as separate files, i.e., not embedded in a document. JPEG files are preferred but TIFF and PNG are good too.

Document file formats: acceptable text formats are: .doc, .docx, .rtf, and .pages (a Mac format) **Do not send .pub (Microsoft Publisher) files!** It's an orphan format and almost no current programs can open them.

And finally: **Meet the deadlines!** They're on the calendar. The Editor still has a nice head of hair. Don't make him lose it now!